

#### Myths:

Floods only happen to other people.

It has never flooded here, so it never will.

There was a flood problem, but it has been fixed.

If flooding were a problem, someone would have told us. That's why we pay taxes.

It's only water. It's no big deal to be flooded.

The government will bail me out.

My homeowner's policy will cover any flood damage.

We just had a "100-year flood", so my family will be safe from future floods for the rest of their lives.

#### Facts:

We can't predict when floods will occur, but we can usually tell where they will occur.

Just because it hasn't flooded in the past doesn't mean it won't in the future.

Just because you had a flood does not mean it won't happen again soon.

Floods are caused by weather conditions and are unpredictable. If the conditions are right, floods will occur again.

It is almost impossible to "fix" a flood problem.

Real estate agents usually don't know whether flooding has ever occurred on the property.

Government assistance after a flood is usually limited to loans which have to be repaid. Who needs a second mortgage?

Source: Floods and Your Family brochure, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



**San Antonio Fire Department  
Office of Emergency Management**

More information on flood safety is available through the National Weather Service, [www.noaa.gov/floods.htm](http://www.noaa.gov/floods.htm), or Federal Alliance For Safe Homes, [www.flash.org](http://www.flash.org). Call the toll-free help desk at 1-877-221-SAFE or email [www.flash.org](http://www.flash.org), or [www.floodsafety.com](http://www.floodsafety.com), or [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)



**City of San Antonio**

## **Flash Flood Safety Information**



**San Antonio  
Fire Department  
Office of Emergency  
Management**

## Flash Flood Safety

More deaths occur due to flooding each year than from any other thunderstorm or hurricane related hazard. Many of these casualties are a result of careless or unsuspecting motorists who attempt to navigate flooded roads. The National Weather Service and the City of San Antonio Office of Emergency Management now warn anyone who comes to a flooded roadway,



"Turn around... don't drown!"

### Follow these safety rules:

- \* If flooding occurs, get to higher ground. Stay away from flood-prone areas, including dips, low spots, valleys, ditches, washes, etc.
- \* Avoid flooded areas or those with rapid water flow. Do not attempt to cross a flowing stream. It takes only six inches of fast flowing water to sweep you off of your feet.

- \* Don't allow children to play near high water, storm drains or ditches. Hidden dangers could lie beneath the water.
- \* Flooded roads could have significant damage hidden by floodwaters. Never drive through floodwaters or on flooded roads. If your vehicle stalls, leave immediately and seek higher ground. Water only two feet deep can float away most automobiles.
- \* Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams and waters, particularly when threatening conditions exist.
- \* Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.
- \* Monitor NOAA Weather Radio or your local media for vital weather related information.



More information on flood safety is available through the National Weather Service, [www.noaa.gov/floods.htm](http://www.noaa.gov/floods.htm), or Federal Alliance For Safe Homes, [www.flash.org](http://www.flash.org). Call the toll-free help desk at 1-877-221-SAFE or email [www.flash.org](http://www.flash.org), or [www.floodsafety.com](http://www.floodsafety.com), or [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

## Driven To Disaster

Ironically, many drivers rescued from flood waters report that they were in a hurry to get home-- to safety -- as a reason for tempting the danger of driving into water. However it looks, and despite what car commercials depict, driving into flood waters may be the most dangerous thing one might ever try considering the following:

- \* Most cars will float (and be swept away) in 18-24 inches of moving water. Trucks and SUVs are not much better with only 6-12 more inches of clearance. Creeks and rivers can rise very rapidly and the road bottom can also wash away making the water much deeper than it appears.
- \* Once cars are swept downstream they will often roll to one side or perhaps flip over entirely. The driver has a few precious seconds to escape the vehicle. In fact, many drivers panic as soon as the vehicle submerges and are found later with their seat belt intact.

**Safety is everybody's business. Did you Know....**

A 1992 ordinance (#76473) enables the City of San Antonio to issue a \$400 fee to anyone who has to be rescued at low water crossings. Additionally, driving around a barricade will lead to a citation from the San Antonio Police Department.